



GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

309 Massachusetts Ave., N. E.
Washington, DC 20002
Phone 202-547-8189 • Fax 202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

8 September 2005

The Honorable James Talent
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Talent and Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for the "Combat Meth Act of 2005," which was reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on 28 July.

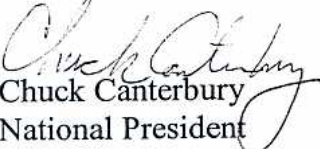
The growth in the use and manufacture of methamphetamines has created a serious threat in all too many of our communities, and continues its unprecedented spread into previously unaffected areas of the nation. The tremendous increase in the production of the drug in smaller, clandestine labs also creates substantial problems for the communities where it is manufactured. For example, every pound of methamphetamine that is produced generates approximately 5 to 10 pounds of toxic by-products, which are then buried in the soil or dumped into local sewer systems or waterways. A related problem is that of drug-endangered children, those who are exposed to the toxic chemicals produced by residential-based clandestine labs. In 2003, the EPIC Clandestine Laboratory Seizure System reported that more than 3,000 children were found on site during law enforcement actions related to clandestine methamphetamine labs nationwide; with forty-one of these children reported injured and one killed by explosions or fires at clandestine meth labs.

This legislation correctly addresses the plague of methamphetamines by providing new resources and tools to aid law enforcement in its fight against the meth epidemic. Specifically, the bill provides additional funds to train State and local law enforcement in the investigation of methamphetamine offenses; expands the Methamphetamine/Drug Hot Spots program to include personnel and equipment for enforcement, prosecution, and lab clean-up; and establishes grant programs for services to drug-endangered children. Perhaps most importantly, the bill tackles the growth in the number of labs manufacturing the drug by limiting access to pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, the primary ingredients in meth production—while preserving the ability of State and local governments to counter the threat posed by methamphetamines through more stringent regulation of these two precursor chemicals.

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

On behalf of the more than 321,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you for your leadership on this important issue, and your support of law enforcement's collective effort to protect our children and our communities from the scourge of drugs and crime. We stand ready to work with you and your staffs to see this legislation enacted into law. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Executive Director Jim Pasco, through our Washington office if we can provide you with any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

cc: The Honorable Arlen Specter, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary